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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/52/628, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 38th and 49th meetings, on 12 November and 5 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.38 and 49).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/52/L.18 and A/C.2/52/L.53

2. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/52/L.18), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which it endorsed the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/628 and addenda.

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Agenda,[1] which were adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996 at Istanbul,

"Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to address the economic, social and environmental consequences of rapid urbanization,

"Stressing the need to improve conditions of shelter, access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and basic social services in both rural and urban areas,

"Also recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda and operative paragraph 15 of Assembly resolution 51/177 on the need to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II,

"Noting with regret that the Secretary-General has not submitted the final comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with a view to its revitalization, as called for in Assembly resolution 51/177, and stressing that that has prevented Member States from addressing those issues in a timely manner,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session (Nairobi, 28 April-7 May 1997),[2] as well as on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,[3] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[4]

"2. Welcomes the actions by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements towards the reform of the administrative and financial management of the Centre pursuant to the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General, as well as the relevant reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors and resolutions 16/8, 16/19, 16/28 and 16/29 of the Commission on Human Settlements;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session the comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization, which was called for in operative paragraph 19 of Assembly resolution 51/177, taking into account resolution 16/8 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session;

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[1] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8).

[3] A/52/8/Add.1.

[4] A/52/181-E/1997/77.

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to address urgently the serious management and financial situation at the Centre to meet its responsibilities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[1]

"5. Urges all Governments and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement fully and effectively the Habitat Agenda;

"6. Affirms that in a rapidly urbanizing world, the pivotal role of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should be recognized and enhanced;

"7. Requests all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the Bretton Woods institutions, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda at all levels, particularly at the national level;

"8. Stresses that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

"9. Calls upon the international community, in particular developed countries, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for its follow-up to the Habitat Agenda;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the financial arrangements of the United Nations Office at Nairobi into line with those of similar United Nations administrative offices;

"11. Decides to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including the identification of obstacles and the consideration of further actions and initiatives, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-fourth session, a report containing recommendations for consideration by the Assembly on the format, scope, organizational and substantive aspects of the special session;

"12. Decides that the eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, in 2001, shall be the preparatory mechanism for the special session of the General Assembly, and shall be open-ended to allow the full participation of all States;

"13. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider dedicating one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and in that context requests the

relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the preparation of such a high-level segment;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item 'Implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)'."

3. At the 49th meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/52/L.53), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.18.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.49).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.53 (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.18 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions contained in Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 16/1 and 16/2

7. At the 49th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 16/1, entitled "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", and 16/2, entitled "Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements", which contained draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly.[5]

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolutions contained in Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 16/1 and 16/2 (see para. 9, draft resolutions II and III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

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[5] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8), annex I, sect. A.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which it endorsed the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[6] and the Habitat Agenda,[7] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at Istanbul, on 14 June 1996,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to address the economic, social and environmental consequences of rapid urbanization,

Stressing the need to improve conditions of shelter, access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and basic social services in both rural and urban areas,

Recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, in which the Conference requested the General Assembly to consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II, and paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 51/177, in which the Assembly requested that a decision on the matter be taken at its fifty-second session,

Noting the delay in the submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the final comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with a view to its revitalization, as called for in paragraph 19 of Assembly resolution 51/177, and stressing that that has constrained consideration by the Assembly of those issues,

Recalling its resolution 51/225 of 3 April 1997, and noting with concern the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[8] in which serious concern is expressed about the financial irregularities in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and recognizing that the serious management and financial situation at the Centre should be addressed as a matter of urgency,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session[9] and on the implementation of the Global Strategy for

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[6] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[7] Ibid., annex II.

[8] A/52/339, annex.

[9] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8).

Shelter to the Year 2000,[10] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[11]

2. Requests the Secretary-General to address urgently the serious management and financial situation at the Centre to meet its responsibilities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[7] in accordance with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 16/8;[12]

3. Urges the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to take further action towards the reform of the administrative and financial management of the Centre pursuant to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[8] as well as the relevant reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors and Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 16/8, 16/19, 16/28 and 16/29;[12]

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session the comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization called for in paragraph 19 of Assembly resolution 51/177, taking into account Commission resolution 16/8 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth session;

5. Urges all Governments and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement fully and effectively the Habitat Agenda;

6. Invites Governments to consider, where appropriate, including in their delegations to future sessions of the Commission, in accordance with the specific conditions of each country, representatives of local authorities and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector, non-governmental organizations and research organizations, in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

7. Affirms that in a rapidly urbanizing world, the pivotal role of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should be recognized and enhanced;

8. Requests all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda at all levels, to enhance their cooperation for that purpose with a view to promoting

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[10] A/52/8/Add.1.

[11] A/52/181-E/1997/77.

[12] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8), annex I, sect. A.2.

integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation of and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences;

9. Stresses that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in support of national efforts in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

10. Invites all Governments and the international community to consider providing further support to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in its activities, taking into account the need to continue to improve its effectiveness;

11. Invites the Commission on Human Settlements to promote the use of a set of key indicators to be further developed by the Centre and used by Governments, as appropriate, for national and local monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

12. Decides to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which will be decided on at its fifty-third session;

13. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider devoting one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements as the lead agency for the Strategy,

Noting that the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy, conducted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), were incorporated into the Habitat Agenda,[13]

Having considered the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,[14]

Noting with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. Commends Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda;[13]

2. Urges Governments, in connection with the implementation of their national plans of action on human settlements, to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and sustainable development;

3. Also urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21;[15]

4. Recommends that Governments extend the application of urban and housing indicators to cities and rural settlements for monitoring the progress of their national shelter strategy and the performance of the shelter sector, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

5. Urges the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

6. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide, on the basis of an approach consistent with the Global Strategy, increased financial and other support to Governments for achieving the objective of adequate shelter for all;

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[13] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8/Add.1).

[15] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

7. Adopts the Plan of Action for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 for the biennium 1998-1999,[16] and urges Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action;

8. Decides to subsume the sixth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as called for in Assembly resolution 43/181, into the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be submitted pursuant to Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[17]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, and in particular its resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, by which it decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the Commission on Human Settlements,

Taking into account its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling that in its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227, and together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[18]

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[16] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8/Add.1), annex.

[17] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1.

[18] Ibid., annex II.

Convinced that the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to human settlements development and within the framework of coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

I

Framework for the functioning of the Commission

1. Reaffirms that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[18] and advising the Council thereon;

2. Calls upon all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, to identify specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions;

3. Calls upon the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

4. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to consider how they might be actively involved in the implementation of and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

5. Decides, in view of the importance of non-governmental organizations, local authorities, the private sector and research organizations in the promotion of human settlements development, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations;

II

Terms of reference

6. Reaffirms the existing mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements as set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, while stressing the normative and catalytic character of the mandate;

7. Reaffirms in particular the responsibility of the Commission to give overall policy guidance to and to supervise the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

8. Takes into account that the Commission should fulfil its mandate in line with paragraphs 222 to 227 of the Habitat Agenda and in harmony with recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21;[19]

9. Decides that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

10. Also decides that the Commission shall identify issues concerning which system-wide coordination needs to be improved and modalities for promoting system-wide coordination in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

III

Structure of the agenda and work programme of the Commission

11. Urges the Commission to adopt a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach that would, inter alia, provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and that would be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences, culminating in an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda in the year 2001;

12. Decides that the work of the Commission in relation to the programme of work shall be primarily focused on the relevant provisions of the Habitat Agenda with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

13. Also decides that the agenda of the Commission on Human Settlements at its future sessions shall include the following substantive items derived from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II):

(a) Consideration of issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

(b) Review of the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the themes "Sustainable human settlements development" and "Adequate shelter for all";

(c) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting human settlements development;

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[19] See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1997, vol. I, Resolution Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

14. Further decides that at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, which will be structured around the following four substantive areas of the Habitat Agenda, the Commission will focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact:

(a) Adequate shelter for all, also incorporating the monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, also incorporating the monitoring of chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

(c) Capacity-building and institutional development;

(d) International cooperation and coordination;

15. Decides that:

(a) At its seventeenth session, in 1999, the Commission will address the above-mentioned substantive areas;

(b) At its eighteenth session, in 2001, the Commission will focus on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, if appropriate;

(c) In 1998 and 2000, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements will analyse the progress made on national implementation status, organized around the four above-mentioned substantive areas, and will prepare synthesized reports to be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

IV

Documentation

16. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely, with a focus on relevant issues, that to the greatest extent possible use be made of integrated reporting, that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors involved, that reports be made available in all official languages in accordance with the rules of the United Nations, and that the use of other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored;

V

Methods of work of the Commission

17. Recognizes that the methods of work of the Commission should be revitalized in order to improve the profile of the Commission and attract high-level political participation;

18. Decides that preparation of thematic discussions in the Commission should be broadened by:

(a) Inviting countries to contribute to the preparation of the sessions by, for example, organizing seminars or expert panels on issues directly related to the themes that will be discussed at a particular session, and to report thereon;

(b) Involving local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other partners in the preparatory phases of Commission sessions;

19. Also decides that during Commission sessions, dialogues with major groups and panel discussions may be organized, the format of which, as with all other agenda items, should be decided upon at preceding Commission sessions;

20. Further decides to consider organizing interactive high-level segments on key policy issues during future Commission sessions;

VI

Secretariat

21. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure the effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in line with paragraph 232 of the Habitat Agenda so as to enable it to discharge its mandate fully and to serve as an efficient secretariat to the Commission, and also to ensure that clear lines of responsibility are drawn so as to facilitate the implementation of the follow-up to Habitat II and secure close cooperation at the secretariat level among all United Nations entities involved in the follow-up;

22. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to submit to the Commission on Human Settlements at future sessions a detailed report on the activities of regional offices, paying special attention to the status of implementation of the work programmes elaborated for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in each region.